

interests, or particular circumstances. One result of this rigid approach was that many teenagers dropped out of school soon after they passed the age of compulsory school attendance. The flexibility in choosing part of the curriculum should not be taken to mean that your son or daughter does not have to meet exacting standards; there are built-in safeguards designed to ensure that high standards are met.

What does the new system mean to you and your son or daughter?

The new system ensures that your teenagers receive a well-balanced education, an education that gives them a solid grounding in the basic subjects—English, Mathematics, Science, Canadian History and Canadian Geography. It also provides them with a choice of options such as Consumer Studies, World Religions, Economics, People and Politics, Family Studies, Space and Man, Environmental Science, Law, Urban Studies, Accounting, Machine Shop, and other subjects that are relevant to the world in which they will live and work.

Long-range plans

All students and their parents should give serious consideration to the recommendations and advice of the school. The consequences of course choices can be extremely important, whether students plan to enter the world of work directly or go on to post-secondary education.

The development of an educational program tailored to the individual student's unique potential requires a strong partnership among parents, pupils, and teachers. The increased responsibility that you, as a parent, must bear in working toward the achievement of this objective is great—but so are the opportunities and the rewards.

If you would like further information regarding secondary school programs and how to make the best choices, we suggest that you contact the principal of your nearest school, your local school board, or one of the nine regional offices of the Ontario Ministry of Education. Regional offices of the Ministry may be contacted in the following locations:

Northwestern Ontario
435 Jame Street South
Thunder Bay P7E 6E3
(807) 475-1581

Midnorthern Ontario
1349 LaSalle Blvd.
Sudbury P3A 1Z5
(705) 566-3480

Northeastern Ontario
Transportation and
Communications Building
McKeown Avenue
Box 3020
North Bay P1B 8K7
(705) 474-7210

Western Ontario
759 Hyde Park Road
London N6H 3S6
(519) 472-1440

Central Ontario
Suite 3201
Heron's Hill Building
2015 Sheppard Avenue East
Willowdale M2J 1W4
(416) 492-0330

Eastern Ontario
1825 Woodward Drive
Ottawa K2C 0R2
(613) 225-2230



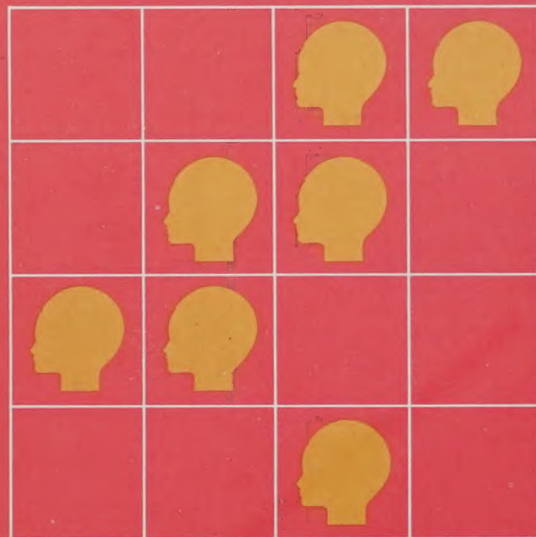
Ontario

Ministry
of
Education

Thomas L. Wells
Minister

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370-9713
059DE/Mp

The Student and the Secondary School Program



This pamphlet is intended for the parents of students who are about to enter a secondary school in Ontario. If you went to school in the 40's and 50's, or were educated outside the province, you may not be familiar with the changes that have taken place in Ontario's secondary schools during the past few years. We hope that the following information will be of help to you in understanding the choices available as your sons and daughters begin their secondary school education.

The credit system

The *credit system* has been in effect in Ontario schools for several years now. It allows students to learn at their own pace and to make some choices about the subjects that will best prepare them for the kind of life and career they want to follow when they graduate. Each course that a student takes is worth a certain number of *credits*. Most courses are awarded one credit, but some may be valued at more or less than one credit, depending on the amount of work they represent. A credit is awarded when a student successfully completes a course for which a minimum of 110 hours of classroom study has been scheduled, excluding time spent on homework. The student who needs more time to do the work successfully still earns the credit. The important thing is completing the work satisfactorily—not how long it takes to do it.

A minimum of 27 credits is required for the *Secondary School Graduation Diploma*, normally awarded at the grade 12 level. In order to receive the *Secondary School Honour Graduation Diploma* (formerly called Senior Matriculation), a student must complete six credits at the honour graduation or grade 13 level. The Honour Graduation Diploma is generally required for entrance to Ontario universities.

Compulsory credit courses

Beginning in September 1977, students entering secondary school must include the following nine compulsory credit courses within the 27 credits required for the Secondary School Graduation Diploma:

- in the grade 9 and 10 program, two credit courses in English, two in Mathematics, one in Science, one in Canadian History, and one in Canadian Geography;
- in the grade 11 and 12 program, two credit courses in English Studies.

It is understood that these are the *minimum requirements* in these subjects.

How the program works

In most schools a student entering grade 9 will take a course in English, Canadian History or Canadian Geography, Mathematics, and, in all probability, Science. The principal and his or her staff will recommend other optional subjects which they feel are best suited to the student's abilities and educational goals. However, students and their parents have the right to select alternative optional courses provided that the diploma requirements regarding *areas of study* and *compulsory credit courses* are being met.

In grade 10, the student will take a course in English, Mathematics, and Canadian History or Canadian Geography. Science must be included if it was not taken in grade 9. Optional courses would again round out the curriculum, with the principal providing recommendations and guidance in course selection. A student who is 18 years of age or over may accept responsibility for selecting optional courses without parental agreement.

The secondary school curriculum

The curriculum in secondary schools is divided into four *areas of study*:

- Communications
- Social and Environmental Studies
- Pure and Applied Sciences
- Arts

To earn a Secondary School Graduation Diploma a student is required to obtain a minimum of 27 credits in 9 compulsory and 18 optional courses; at the same time, the courses must be selected in such a manner that there are *at least 3 credits within each of the four areas of study*.

Within these four areas, most schools offer a wide variety of courses to choose from. It is suggested that parents and students meet with the school staff and consult the school's course calendar. Some courses are offered at various levels of difficulty. The principal or staff members will recommend the level that is most suitable for a particular student, taking into account the student's academic achievements, educational goals, and career expectations.

Individual courses are assigned to the areas of study by the principal of the school, according to the aims and objectives of the course. The following is an example of how courses might be assigned.

Communications	Data Processing Drafting English Français French German Latin Shorthand
Social and Environmental Studies	Economics Family Studies (Home Economics) Geography History Retail Merchandising Urban Studies World Religions
Pure and Applied Sciences	Data Processing Elements of Technology Horticulture Industrial Arts Mathematics Sciences Space and Man
Arts	Dramatic Arts Graphic Arts Music Physical and Health Education Visual Arts

This list is not all-inclusive, but is intended to give a sampling of the courses available. Limitations of space, staff, and financing may make it impossible for an individual school to offer all of the subjects authorized by the Ministry of Education—or even all those listed above.

By allowing this kind of flexibility at the local level, the credit system has overcome the disadvantages of the rigid approach taken years ago, when students in all parts of the province were generally forced to take the same subjects, regardless of their abilities or